

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 28, 2005 has been received and considered. Claims 18-28 are pending. Claims 18 and 24 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Each of the Examiner's rejections is discussed below.

Specification

The specification has been objected to on the grounds that the phrase "pumps 70" at page 10, line 15 should be changed to "pumps 68." The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and is now believed to be in proper form.

Section 102

Claims 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,734,231 to Morita et al. ("Morita"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Morita discloses a process for preparing fiberboards. A first hopper 2 deposits a layer of fibers 4 on a traveling conveyor 1. A second hopper 3 filled with phenol resin particles deposits a resin layer 5 on top of the fiber layer 4. The two layers then enter a compression molding machine 6 where the layers 4, 5 are subjected to heat and pressure to form a fiberboard.

Morita fails to disclose a dry material dispensing assembly positioned in a forming station to introduce an additive to raw material prior to formation of a mat, as required by independent claim 1. In Morita, the hopper 3 that disposes the resin is positioned to introduce the resin to the fibers after the mat of fibers has formed, not prior to formation of the mat. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

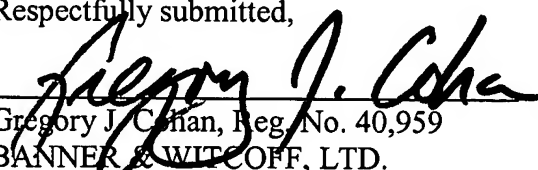
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 24-28 have been allowed. Claim 24 has been amended to more clearly recite that it is the reservoir itself that is being expressly claimed. Claim 24 is still believed to be allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 20-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 18 is believed to be allowable, as discussed above, claims 20-23 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, pending claims 18-28 are believed to be allowable, and an indication to that effect from the Examiner is respectfully requested at this time. Please apply any required charges or credits to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

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Respectfully submitted,


Gregory J. Cohen, Reg. No. 40,959
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
28 State Street, 28th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 720-9600